

50,000 expected at tasty festival

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The Taste of Asia 2005 is expected to attract more than 50,000 people this weekend.

During the two days, a section of Kennedy Road in front of the Village Market and the Pacific Mall will be blocked.

"It will become a pedestrian street where people will be able to sample different cultures," event chairperson Dr. Ken Ng said.

There will be non-stop activities and performances Saturday and Sunday. Highlights will be a live concert of Elton John hits, a fireworks display, sponsored by Splendid China at 10 p.m. Saturday, a large orchid show, an outdoor car show and a 50-team basketball tournament, promoted by basketball star Mitch Wiggins.

Taste of Asia begins at 11 a.m. Saturday and runs until 6 p.m. Sunday.

Sponsored by the Federation of Chinese Canadians, the Association of Progressive Muslims of Ontario and the Town of Markham, the lineup includes 25 food booths, representing different cultures, 35 regular booths with goods and services and 10 commu-

nity booths.

The street festival is in its third year and is comparable to Toronto's Taste of the Danforth. Dr. Ng said.

"All activities, except the food, are free," he stressed.

The Philippine Heritage Band will open the festival at 11 a.m. Saturday, while a ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 12:15 p.m.

The afternoon lineup includes basketball, soccer, Chinese dance troop, ballroom dancing, belly dancing, line dancing, singing, folk dance and a concert band.

ENTERTAINERS

A Polynesian dance performance kicks off Sunday's entertainment at noon. Sunday's fun includes Indian dance, a singing contest, live music by Larry and Sunshine as well as Vansen Lee and Joe Lam. Children's kung fu, tai chi and a lucky draw. Basketball will continue Sunday.

Parking will be available at the Market Village and Pacific Mall, the Milliken Community Centre and Denison Community Centre.

Shuttle buses will also be available from Unionville and Markham Civic Centre.